

## RIGHTEOUSNESS

(Lost at “the Fall”, regained in Christ.)

(Ruatangata CF - 24/11/91 - EKB).

1. **Introductory Verses on Righteousness** (New KJV).  
*Mat 5:6* Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness ...  
*Mat 6:33* Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.  
*Eph 6:14* - Put on the breastplate of righteousness. (*1Thes 5:8*=faith &love)  
*Rom 6:18* You have been set free from sin and become a slave of righteousness.  
*2Tim 2:22* Flee youthful lusts and pursue righteousness,faith, love ....  
*Rom 14:17* The Kingdom of God is righteousness. peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
2. **God is the righteous God.**  
*Ps 145:17* The Lord is righteous in all His ways.  
*Deut 32:4* A God of truth ..... righteous and upright is He.  
*Ps 89:14* Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His Throne.  
*1Jn 2:1* If anyone sins we have an Advocate with the Father Jesus Christ the righteous....
3. **By “righteousness” we mean** that everything about God and what He does is right, good, true, just and perfect.
4. **When God made man** He made him to be perfectly righteous and in full fellowship with Himself, *Gen 1:26,27*.
5. **Gen 3:1-24 describes “the Fall” of man and its consequences.** Man disobeyed God’s command, *Gen 2:16,17* and through his sin and rebellion four major changes occurred:
  - a. **man lost the quality of righteousness** and became unrighteous. He was no longer right, good, true, just and perfect as God.  
*Rom 3:10* of man, God says, there is none righteous, no not one, *Ps 143:1,2*.
  - b. **man lost fellowship with God** and was removed from the garden of God’s presence, *Gen 3:23,24*. No longer could man walk and talk with God.
  - c. **man came under the sentence of eternal death**, *Gen 2:17*.  
*Rom 5:12* “through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and death spread to all men, because all have sinned.” *Rom 3:23*.  
*Rom 6:23* “the wages of sin is death.....”  
The sentence of death in *Gen 2:17*, which reads, “in the day you eat of it you shall surely die,” means “dying you shall die.”  
Adam died spiritually at the time of his sin by separation from God, his spiritual life source. He died physically some years later, *Gen 5:5*. Without the salvation of Christ, Adam and all others will experience eternal death, *Mat 25:41,46*.
  - d. **man’s nature became corrupt**, self centred, self loving, self seeking, self pleasing, whereas before, it was God centred, *Jer 17:9*.  
*Eph 4:22(KJV)* “...the old man (flesh) is corrupt according to deceitful lusts”.  
*Ps 53:2,3* “...the children of men .... everyone of them has turned aside, they have together become corrupt.”
6. **The whole human race** inherited these results of the Fall.

7. Nothing man could do (or can do) would restore His relationship with God. All religions exist to answer the question, "How can a man be righteous before God?" Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, J.W's, Mormans, and Christianity, but Jesus Christ made an exclusive claim that renders every other religion futile, and that is, *Jn 14:6*, "I am the Way, the Truth, the Life, **NO** man comes unto the Father but by **ME!**" There is only **ONE WAY to God**
8. **Only God could provide a solution**, an escape from eternal death. [Like a man on solid ground who throws a life line to another sinking deeper into a large bog.]
9. **God sent His only begotten Son**, the Lord Jesus Christ, who lived a perfectly obedient, sinless life, and freely gave His life as a complete sacrifice for all sin, rising again the third day. *Mat 1:21, 1Pet 3:18, 1Pet 2:24, 1Jn 2:1, Jn 3:16, Jn 1:29, 1Cor 15:3, Is 53:5,6.*
10. **Now whoever:**  
repents - confesses and turns from sin, *Pro 28:13, 1Jn 1:9, Ac 2:38,39*,  
turns to God for mercy, *Ac 26:20*,  
receives Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, *Jn 1:12*,  
surrenders his life to God to follow and obey, *Lk 9:23*,  
is immediately declared righteous, ("justified") by God, totally and completely. The righteousness of Christ is reckoned or imputed to him by faith, *Rom 4:1-5, Gal 2:16.*
11. **The results of "the Fall" are reversed:**
  - a. **Righteousness is restored** to man. Man's guilt is removed and the righteousness of Christ is reckoned to him on the grounds of his faith. *Rom 8:33, 2Cor 5:21, Rom 3:22, Rom 5:19, Rom 3:24.*
  - b. **Fellowship with God is restored.** *2Cor 6:18, Rom 8:15, Jn 14:21, 1 Cor 6:19,20.*
  - c. **Freedom from the sentence of eternal death** and man receives God's free gift of eternal life *Jn 5:24*, All sins are forgiven, *Eph 1:7, 1Jn 1:9, 1Jn 1:7.*
  - d. **Man is set free from slavery to a corrupt sinful nature** and receives a new heart, a new spirit, and a new nature. By the indwelling Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit, and faith in the promises of God's Word, the control of sin is broken. *Eph 4:23,24, Ezk 36:25-27, Heb 8:10-12, Gal 2:20, 1Cor 1:30, Rom 6:1-14.*
12. **"Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to Thy Cross I cling"**.  
It is not of merit, works or law, but simply grace from God by faith on account of what Christ has done, *Phil 3:9, Eph 2:9.*
13. Once we are justified by God, through faith in Christ, our responsibility is to live a life that is pleasing to Him, *2Cor 5:9*  
Practical daily righteousness in our lives is called:
  - a. **"holiness"** *1Pet 1:15,16, Heb 12:14* means Christ living His life in us.
  - b. **"sanctification"** *1Thes 4:3-7* means set apart from all evil unto God.
  - c. **"godliness"** *1Tim 4:8* means to live a life that shows forth Christ.
14. By believing the great promises of God's Word we become partakers of His holy nature. *2Pet 1:4* (eg *Rom 6:1-14, Eph 4:22-32, 2Cor 7:1.*)  
Through the inward life and power of the Holy Spirit we are set free from the power of sin. *Lk 11:13, Eph 5:18,19, Gal 5:16,17, Rom 8:2-6.*